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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION BRANCH
333 Fell Street
San Francisco 2, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Dec. 1, 1950)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 28--- Again this week, Newtown apples from Watsonville, cranberries and persimmons are the Best Buys in fruit.

Thompson Seedless, Tokay, Ribier, Emperor grapes are still a Good Buy, along with avocados.

Winter Nelis, D'Anjou and Comice pears are a Fair Buy.

Eggplant and dry onions head the list of Best Buys in vegetables, followed by artichokes, cabbage, cauliflower, sweetpotatoes, tomatoes and potatoes as Good Buys.

Broccoli and lettuce are Fair Buys.

MEAT --

With consumer demand centering around liberal supplies of turkey, demand for meat has remained slow to fair in the San Francisco wholesale market. Slaughter has been curtailed somewhat by heavy rains, but there has been very little change in prices. In the beef division, quality has been mostly of Commercial grade, with Cutter and Canner grades of cow beef advancing $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight. Good and Choice grades of lamb also have advanced $1.00 per hundredweight. Veal and pork have remained unchanged in price, although there has been very little demand for any smoked meats.

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BUTTER --

During the holiday week there was an improved demand for all grades of butter. Although western butter production continues on a downward trend, there has been little change in prices from a week ago in the San Francisco wholesale market. Top grades have held unchanged, while Grade B (2nd Quality) is up 1-cent at a quotation to retailers of 68 to 69 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Grades A&AA(1st Quality) are quoted to retailers at 70-1/2 to 73 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints.

EGGS --

In the wholesale egg market a very heavy pre-holiday demand for moderate receipts has resulted in price gains of 2 to 3 cents above a week ago. Grade "A" Large are quoted 2 cents higher to retailers at 69 to 70 cents per dozen in cartons. Grade "A" Mediums are up 3 cents at a quotation of 64 to 65 cents per dozen in cartons, as are Grade "A" Smalls at a quotation of 57 to 58 cents per dozen in cartons.

POULTRY

Trading has settled down to a more normal pace in the San Francisco wholesale poultry market, where demand was moderately active for the holiday. Small turkeys were in best demand, with roasters and hens in second place. Supplies are ample and there are no price changes from a week ago.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Dec. 8, 1950)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 5--- There is no change in the Best Buy line-up on fruits this week. It's still Newtown apples from Watsonville, cranberries, and persimmons.

Avocados are a Good Buy, along with Arizona grapefruit and Emperor and Tokay grapes.

Pears (Winter Nelis, D'Anjou, Comice) are a Fair Buy as are Thompson Seedless and Ribier grapes.

Best Buys from the vegetable bin this week are cabbage, carrots, small heads of celery, and dry onions.

Sweetpotatoes can be classed as a Good Buy, with soft squash as a Fair Buy.

MEAT --

Demand has continued fair to slow in the San Francisco wholesale meat market following the Thanksgiving holiday. Although generally supplies of beef have been ample, cow and bull beef has been in very light supply. Veal and calf also have been in light supply but equal to demand. Heavyweight lamb carcasses have been plentiful but mutton scarce. Utility, Cutter and Canner grades of cow beef are up $1.00 to $3.00 per hundredweight above Tuesday of last week. Good hindquarters and loins of beef also are $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight higher. Commercial and Utility grades of lamb have gained $1.00 per hundredweight, while pork loins, fresh hams and butts have dropped $2.00 per hundredweight. Spareribs are down $6.00 per hundredweight.

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BUTTER --

Because the Thanksgiving holiday delayed churnings, both national and western butter production scored a gain for the week ended Nov. 30 -- the first seasonal gain since the peak of production was reached during the week ended June 8. Gains occurred in all western states, except Colorado, to result in an output 7 percent larger than the previous week. Supplies, though, are light. In fact, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced that it plans to bring to the west coast several carloads of butter acquired by the Commodity Credit Corporation in the Midwest through price support operations, an action intended both to reduce stocks of government-owned butter in the Midwest and to stabilize unsettled market conditions along the Pacific Coast which tend to increase the cost of butter to consumers. In the San Francisco wholesale market, demand has been rather light and prices are unchanged from a week ago. Quotation to retailers are: Grades A&AA(1st Quality), 70-1/2 to 73 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints; Grade B(2nd Quality), 68 to 69 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints.

EGGS --

Although consumer demand for eggs declined somewhat after the holiday and delayed receipts have arrived to ease the supply situation, stocks in the San Francisco wholesale market have been clearing well. Grade "A" Large eggs have held unchanged in price from a week ago at a quotation to retailers of 69 to 70 cents per dozen in cartons. But Grade "A" Mediums and Smalls are up 1-cent per dozen, with Grade "A" Mediums quoted to retailers at 65 to 66 cents per dozen in cartons, and Grade "A" Smalls at 58 to 59 cents.

POULTRY --

With the exception of hens which have been in good demand, there has been little demand for liberal offerings of poultry in the San Francisco wholesale market. Light-type hens, as well as both tom and hen turkeys, have gained 1-cent per pound, but broilers have dropped 3 cents per pound, fryers are down 1 to 2 cents per pound, and roasters are 2 cents per pound lower than a week ago.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Dec. 15, 1950)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 12---- This week's Best Buys in fruit include Newtown apples from Santa Cruz county, large-sized avocados, cranberries, and persimmons.

Among the Fair Buys this week are Arizona and Imperial Valley grapefruit, Emperor and Tokay grapes, and lemons.

Best vegetable buys this week are cabbage and cauliflower.

In the Good Buy line-up are broccoli, carrots, celery, cucumbers, eggplant and lettuce.

Soft squash and tomatoes are Fair Buys.

MEAT --

Rainy, damp weather has stimulated the demand for meat in the San Francisco wholesale market, but prices are little changed from a week ago. In especially good demand have been all offal items, canned hams and picnics. In some instances the supply of beef fell short of demand this past week, but supplies of veal, lamb and pork have been ample. Quality of beef has been mostly Commercial, with some beef cuts selling $1.00 per hundredweight higher. Pork loins and butts have dropped $2.00 per hundredweight, while lard has advanced $1.00 to $1.50 per hundredweight.

BUTTER --

As the result of several cars of government-owned butter being shipped in from the central west and sold to local distributors, supplies of all grades are liberal in the San Francisco wholesale market. Prices are unchanged from a week ago, with Grades A&AA(1st Quality) quoted to retailers at 70-1/2 to 73 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints, and Grade B(2nd Quality) quoted at 68 to 69 cents.

MORE

EGGS --

A sharp upturn in the price of eggs in central western markets early last week, plus a continued strong demand for light receipts, has resulted in a price increase of 6 to 10 cents over a week ago in the San Francisco wholesale market. Grade "A" Large eggs are quoted 6 cents higher to retailers at 75 to 76 cents per dozen in cartons; Grade "A" Mediums are quoted 8 cents higher at 73 to 74 cents; and Grade "A" Smalls are quoted 10 cents higher at 68 to 69 cents.

POULTRY --

In the wholesale poultry market a light demand for large supplies of fryers and roasters has resulted in a price drop of 1-cent per pound on those classes. In the case of hens, supplies are hardly sufficient for demand, but prices are unchanged from a week ago. Both hen and tom turkeys have gained 1-cent per pound since last week. All other classes are unchanged.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Dec. 22, 1950)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 19---Best Buys from the fruit department this week include Imperial Valley grapefruit, persimmons, cranberries, large avocados, and Newtown apples from Santa Cruz county.

Tangerines can be classed as a Good Buy, followed by lemons as a Fair Buy.

Best Buys among the vegetables are cabbage, cauliflower and sweetpotatoes.

Good Buys include broccoli, carrots, lettuce, dry onions and parsnips.

In the Fair Buy class are artichokes and Brussels sprouts.

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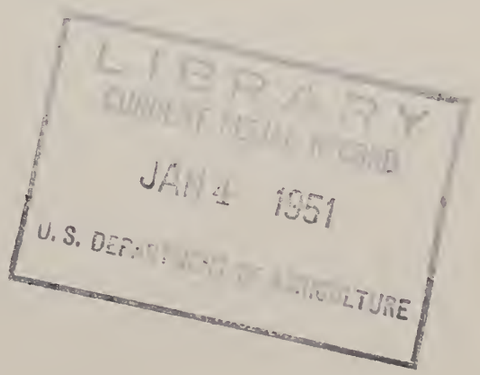

MEAT --

The demand for meat expanded considerably during this past week in the San Francisco wholesale market, partly because of the damp, rainy weather. Prices have advanced, especially on beef, as the result of higher replacement costs, flood damage, and rumors of emergency action. Most of the beef has been of Commercial and Good grade quality, with beef carcasses up $3.00 to $5.00 per hundredweight above a week ago, and with beef cuts ranging anywhere from $2.00 to $10.00 per hundredweight higher. Although the quantity of fresh veal and calf available has been limited, prices have held unchanged. Lamb and mutton are up $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight. And in the pork division, loins, fresh hams and picnics are all $2.00 per hundredweight higher. Despite only a fair demand for smoked meat, smoked hams are up $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight, and refined lard has advanced $2.00 to $3.00 per hundredweight.

BUTTER --

With local supplies of butter being supplemented by offerings from the Commodity Credit Corporation, available supplies are liberal in the San Francisco wholesale market. Prices are unchanged from a week ago. Grades A&AA(1st Quality) are quoted to retailers at 70½ to 73 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints, and Grade B(2nd Quality) is quoted at 68 to 69 cents.

EGGS --

Although eggs are coming in from the central west, supplies of top grades are still relatively light. Local production has been increasing. Prices are unchanged from a week ago, with Grade "A" Large quoted to retailers at 75 to 76 cents per dozen in cartons; Grade "A" Mediums at 73 to 74 cents per dozen in cartons; and Grade "A" Smalls at 68 to 69 cents per dozen in cartons.

POULTRY --

The fairly active demand in the San Francisco wholesale poultry market has been centered on roasters and hens, with prices 1-cent per pound higher on both classes. Turkeys also have gained 3 cents from a week ago. All other classes are unchanged. Supplies have been more than ample, with the exception of hens.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Dec. 29, 1950)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26--- Best Buys in fruit this week are medium-sized Newtown apples from Watsonville, avocados, cranberries, Imperial Valley and Arizona grapefruit, juice oranges from Placer county, and tangerines.

Hawaiian pineapples can be considered a Fair Buy.

Best Buys from the vegetable bin this week are cabbage, cauliflower and sweetpotatoes.

Good Buys are Italian squash, broccoli, carrots, dry onions, parsnips, and lettuce.

In the Fair Buy class are artichokes, and Brussels sprouts.

MEAT --

With turkeys in the limelight, demand for meats in the San Francisco wholesale market was rather slow during the past week. However, late in the week pork items were in more demand, and prices advanced $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight on most pork cuts. Smoked hams and picnics also advanced $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight. Otherwise, prices held about unchanged from the previous week. A light supply of beef was mostly of Commercial and Good grades. Veal was in ample supply, but there was only a limited supply of lamb available.

BUTTER --

In the wholesale butter market, supplies of fresh butter are not sufficient for demand. Commercial stocks in storage are light, and with the announcement that sales of surplus government butter would be discontinued, the market firmed up. Prices advanced 1/2-cent per pound on top grades and 1-cent on Grade "B." Quotations to retailers are: Grades A&AA(1st Quality), 72 to 74-1/2 cents per pound in cartons; Grade B(2nd Quality), 69 to 70 cents per pound in cartons.

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EGGS --

Egg prices broke today, with all Grade "A" eggs down 10 cents per dozen from a week ago. Sharp price declines in central western markets and heavier shipments from that area were factors in the price drop. Quotations to retailers are: Grade "A" Large, 65 to 66 cents per dozen in cartons; Grade "A" Mediums, 63 to 64 cents; and Grade "A" Smalls, 58 to 59 cents per dozen.

POULTRY --

In the wholesale poultry market, roasters, hens, ducks, geese and pheasants were in best demand for the holiday. Broilers and fryers were in little demand and surplus supplies are being packed for storage. The break in egg prices is resulting in larger supplies of Leghorn (light type) hens, but prices are unchanged. Heavy hens, though, have advanced 1 to 2 cents per pound from a week ago. Roasters and hen turkeys also are up 1-cent per pound.

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